

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEA-10 SCA-01 OPR-02 DRC-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /168 W

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P R 241100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3234

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UG US UK

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS: CONVERSATION WITH HENNESSY AND NAPIER

REFS: KAMPALA 3170 AND 3178

1. MET WITH ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HENNESSY AND INFORMATION

OFFICER NAPIER EVENING OCTOBER 23 FOR REHASH OF OUR SESSION EARLIER THAT DAY WITH GENERAL AMIN. WE WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE VERSION PUT OUT BY GENERAL AMIN (BEING REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED SEPTEL), WHICH HE PROBABLY DICTATED TO FONMIN ACTING PERM SEC NTIMBA RIGHT AFTER OUR SESSION, BORE ONLY A FAINT RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPRIRED AT THE MEETING. JUST AS A FEW EXAMPLES, AMIN DID NOT SAY THAT THE AMERICANS ARE GOING TO DIG THEIR OWN GRAVES, HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO "WHITE PIGMENT," NOR DID HE SAY THAT "KISSINGER

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WAS NEGOTIATING THIS WHILE ARMING THE ISRAELIS TO THE TEETH."

ALL OF THESE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AFTERTHOUGHTS ON THE PART OF
THE GENERAL.

2. HENNESSY AND NAPIER AGREED WITH MY INTERPRETATION OF THE
GENERAL'S LATEST ACT; NAMELY, THAT IT WAS ALL DESIGNED TO COVER
UP THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SENDING A CONTINGENT OF UGANDAN
TROOPS TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE ARABS IN THE NEAR EAST. NAPIER
REMARKED THAT AMIN HAD APPARENTLY BEEN REBUFFED BY THE LEADERS
OF THE ARAB STATES HE VISITED LAST WEEK, WHO PROBABLY TOLD HIM
THAT THEY WOULD JUST AS SOON NOT HAVE ANY TROOPS FROM UGANDA
COMING TO THEIR COUNTRIES. HENNESSY AGREED WITH ME THAT WE NEED
TO FOCUS OUR CONCERN NOT ON THE GENERAL'S ALLEGATIONS REGARDING
A PLANNED COMMANDO ATTACK AGAINST UGANDA, BUT INSTEAD ON HIS
OMINOUS INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS TROOPS TO ARREST AMERICAN AND
BRITISH CITIZENS FOUND WITHOUT ID CARDS, ETC.

3. HENNESSY ASKED IF I THOUGHT WE WOULD HAVE TO WALK OUT ON THE
GENERAL'S UN DAY SPEECH OCTOBER 24. HE REMARKED THAT HE WOULDN'T
MIND HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GESTURE LIKE WALKING OUT.
I SAID I WAS NOT INCLINED TO INDULGE IN SUCH GESTURES, EXCEPT
IN EXTREMIS, BECAUSE: A) A WALKOUT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE NO
IMPRESSION ON THE GENERAL; AND B) THOSE OBSERVING IT WOULD
PROBABLY THINK THAT IT WAS PROMPTED BY SOMETHING LIKE A
CALL OF NATURE.

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